

**Claims:**

1. A method for modifying the irradiation distribution of a radiation source, in which method

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- the radiation source (1) is used to direct radiation to an essentially planar target surface (6),

characterized in that

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- between the radiation source (1) and the target surface (6), several plates (4), which are essentially transparent to the radiation and have spaces between them, are placed closer to the radiation source (1) than to the target surface (6), in order to use the reflection and absorption of the transparent plates (4) to attenuate the radiation to

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2. A method as defined in claim 1, characterized in that the transparent plates are positioned essentially parallel to the target surface (6).

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3. A method as defined in claim 1 or 2, characterized in that at least one diffuser (3) is positioned between the radiation source and the transparent plates.

4. A method as defined in claim 1, 2 or 3, characterized in that a flash tube (1) is used as the radiation source and the target surface (6) is a solar panel.

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5. A method in accordance with any preceding claim, characterized in that the transparent plates (4) are arranged in a conical stack between the radiation source (1) and the target plane (6)

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6. A method in accordance with any preceding claim, characterized in that the transparent plate (4) closest to the source (1) is placed from the source (1) at a distance (d) of 5-20%, typically at a distance (d) of 10% of the distance (e) between the source (1) and the target (6).

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7. A device for modifying the irradiation distribution of a radiation source, which device comprises

- a radiation source (1) by means of which radiation can be directed to an essentially planar target surface (6),

5 characterized in that

- between the radiation source (1) and the target surface (6), several plates (4), which are essentially transparent to the radiation and have spaces between them, are placed closer to the radiation source (1) than to the target surface (6), in order to use the reflection and absorption of the transparent plates (4) to attenuate the radiation to desired areas.

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8. A device as defined in claim 7, characterized in that the transparent plates are positioned essentially parallel to the target surface (6).

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9. A device as defined in claim 7 or 8, characterized in that at least one diffuser (3) is positioned between the radiation source and the transparent plates.

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10. A device as defined in claim 7, 8, or 9, characterized in that a flash tube (1) is used as the radiation source and the target surface (6) is a solar panel.

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11. A device in accordance with any preceding claim, characterized in that the transparent plates (4) are arranged in a conical stack between the radiation source (1) and the target plane (6).

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12. A device in accordance with any preceding claim, characterized in that the transparent plate (4) closest to the source (1) is placed from the source (1) at a distance (d) of 5-20%, typically at a distance (d) of 10% of the distance (e) between the source (1) and the target (6).